

Asian Advisory Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, May 19, 2008

TIME: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

LOCATION: 324 S. State Street, Suite 500, Room 501

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Karie Minaga-Miya, Hao Zhu, Pema Chagzoetsang, Eunice Jones, Kamonsin (Bo) Koonrajaksebonde, Safi M. Safiullah, and Kheng Ty

OEA STAFF:

Linda Oda-Director of Asian Affairs, Laura Garcia-Administrative Assistant, and Silvia Thomas-Director of Hispanic Affairs

EXCUSED:

Nadeem Ahmed, Eric Cheng, Kyum Chon, Maung Maung, Vatsala Naageshwaran, John Vang, and Khambane Vongthongchit

GUEST:

Ze Min Xiao, and Roger Tsai

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:

Sign in Sheet:

- The sign in sheet was distributed to the Asian Advisory Council members present.
- Linda welcomed everyone in attendance and started the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

GUEST - Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce:

- Ze Min Xiao, President and Roger Tsai, President-Elect from the Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce presented information about an effort to get the Asian citizenry to vote. They would like our assistance with their "Get Out and Vote" initiative.
- Linda suggested to the UACC on having the "Get Out and Vote" initiative in a written format for the Asian Advisory Council members so they can distribute it to their communities.
- It was mentioned that the Asian Community Based Organizations list in the OEA website is not accurate. Linda mentioned that OEA is working on getting it corrected as soon as possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 17, 2008 minutes were accepted. Pema made a motion to approve the minutes. Eunice seconded the motion. Motion carried. None opposed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Linda reported on the progress of the Education Conference. It was decided by the committee members to have it on October 25, 2008, at West High School.

CHAIR'S/VICE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Old Business

- Eunice Jones reminded everyone about the Utah Asian Festival on June 14, 2008. Since OEA is a contributor, a booth was designated for OEA and the Asian Advisory Council. Volunteers were asked to sign up for times to man the booth. Laura distributed the volunteer list to the council members present. Also, a request to the OEA staff will be made to assist with the booth.
- Pema Chagzoetsang requested that each council member at our regular meetings bring a guest from their community to discuss a prominent issue plaguing their community. Pema and Karie Minaga-Miya will bring someone to the next meeting (July 21, 2008).

New Business

- Linda mentioned she is requesting to maintain 2/3 of the Asian Advisory Council members. Hopefully appointments will be made for 5 new members.

Status of Myanmar after the Cyclone Disaster

- Linda read Maung Maung's, Chair's, report on the Myanmar cyclone disaster since he was unable to attend the meeting. Please see attachment on e-mail.

Status of China Earthquake

- Hao Zhu, Co-Chair, reported on the China earthquake disaster. Laura distributed the paperwork on the information he gave. The Asian Advisory Council requested that Linda formulate a proclamation expressing the Office of Asian Affairs and Asian Advisory Council's condolences to the People of Myanmar and China.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Bangladeshi – Safi:

- Bangladesh community council met with Governor Huntsman to talk about a business relation with Bangladesh.
- Two boys and a girl from the Bangladesh community graduated from three different Universities.
- Safi mentioned that the Bangladeshi community is very sorry for the Earthquake in China.

Burmese – Maung: Excused

- Linda read Maung's community report. To see Maung's report; please open attachment on the e-mail.

Cambodian – Kheng:

- Kheng mentioned he will send Laura his report by e-mail.

Chinese – Hao:

- To see Hao's report; please open attachment on the e-mail.

Filipino – Eunice:

- In April 19, 2008 there was a concert at the Judge Memorial and around 150 people attended.
- Eunice reported she has been a volunteer for the Asian Festival for 10 years. She is the chair for the Asian Idol, and she help from the Asian communities to have more participants sign-up to be contestants, because there are only 10 contestants and they are all Filipino.

Hmong – John Vang: Excused, he indicated there is nothing to report.

Asian Indian – Vatsala: Excused. No report.

Japanese – Karie:

- Karie mentioned she attended an event last month. Presenters spoke about Alzheimers. She will give Laura the information by e-mail. Linda mentioned she would like this speaker to speak at the next Asian Advisory Council meeting as a guest.
- Karie mentioned the following event:
 - National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) at the SLC Marriott Downtown Hotel – Set for July 16 – July 19, 2008.

Korean – Kyum: Excused, he indicated there are no issues to report.

Lao – Khambane: Excused, he indicated there is nothing to report.

Pakistani – Nadeem: Excused.

- Nadeem e-mailed his report to the council. It read the following:
 - We had successful visa service event last month when Pakistani officials from Pakistan Consulate came here and granted visa to those who applied. This has been a yearly event for Pakistan Association of Utah.

Thai – Bo:

- Bo mentioned the Thai New Year Festival on April 19, 2008 had a lot of support.
- Bo mentioned that he met a lot of people at the Living Traditions Celebration.

Tibetan – Pema:

- Pema wanted to acknowledge Hao by thanking him for his kind consideration of the issues brought forth regarding Chinese and Tibetan topics.

- Pema mentioned she is aware that the Tibetans and Chinese are gaining better political understanding. She reported that the Utah Tibetan community wants to do something about collecting and receiving donations for the victims of the earthquake in China.
- The Tibetan community participated in the Art & Cultural show for Living Traditions.
- She mentioned that one Tibetan student graduated from a University.

Vietnamese – Vacant seat - No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No announcements given.

NEXT MEETING: July 21, 2008, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Office of Ethnic Affairs location. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Pema moved to adjourn. Eunice seconded. Motion carried.